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By Abnaki

FROM BOTH
PARIS'S AND
YOUR REPORT.

—DURING ANNA
BURNE'S DEFAECOL
ANOTHER ENTITY WAS
DISCOVERED AS YOU
FOUGHT HER FEARS.

NOW, IT'S COMPLETELY
NORMAL THAT STRAY
TINOSSEM WANDER IN
FROM TIME TO TIME. BUT,
IT WASN'T A STRAY
CONSIDERING THAT IT
CAME FROM YOU.



IT WAS THAT GIRL



WHEN YOU ACTIVATED
THOSE RUNES, IT
SERVED AS A FILTER
TO KEEP TIMOREM
OUT, AND PROTECT



YOU.

I SAW IT SEPARATE
FROM YOU WHEN YOU
PASSED THE RUNE
BARRIER WHEN YOU
WERE GETTING YOUR
ASS BEAT BY ANNA'S
TIMOREM.

SPLIT!



AND WHEN YOU
CROSSED BACK TO
THE OPPOSITE SIDE
OF THE BARRIER, IT
DISAPPEARED—

--ASSUMING THAT
IT "RETURNED" TO
YOU.



.....

..IT TOOK ON A
HUMAN FIGURE.
HUH?



*TALK ABOUT
ESCALATING
QUICKLY...*

??

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?



**TIMOREM ARE AN
EMBODIMENT OF FEAR
AND REPRESENT THE
UGLY IN OUR LIVES.**



**SO, THEY USUALLY
TAKE ON DEFORMED
APPEARANCES IN
THE EARLY STAGES
AS RAIN, FEAR**

MANIFESTATIONS.



IN THE CASES THAT
TIMOREM ARE NOT
EXORCISED IN A TIMELY
MATTER, AND/OR EVOLVE
IN POWER, THEY CAN
CHANGE THEIR FORMS TO
A MORE REFINED
APPEARANCE.

A HUMAN FORM IS
ADVANCED, AND
SIGNIFIES A
STRONGER, AND
SMARTER TIMOREM.

PLUS, IT'S BETTER TO
"BLEND IN" WITH THE



**PUBLIC AFTER THEY
CONSUME THEIR HOST'S
BODY.**

**BY THEN, THE
TIMOREM TAKE ON
PHYSICAL FORM TO
ROAM FREELY BEYOND
THE VEIL THAT THEY
PREVIOUSLY COULD
ONLY EXIST IN.**

I THINK I
REMEMBER IRIS
MENTIONING
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT.

YOUR PROGRESS IN
TRAINING LOOKED JUST
FINE, AND BLAMING THE
VEIL ENCOUNTERS SEEM
TOO SHALLOW TO PUT THE
BLAME ON. (ALTHOUGH IT
MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED
IN SOME WAY.)



SO, IT SOUNDS LIKE
YOU HAVE SOME
SERIOUS SKELETONS
THAT HAVE BEEN
LOCKED IN THE CLOSET
FOR IT TO TAKE ON
THAT FORM.

BUT IN THE END,
THOSE CASES USUALLY
BRING OUT THE MOST
BADASS PORTFOLIOS.



I WANTED TO ASSIST

YOU IMMEDIATELY AFTER
HEARING THE REPORTS.
BUT THAT WOULD BE
RISKING YOUR LIFE BY
NOT PREPARING
PROPERLY.

I SOUGHT HELP
FROM SOMEONE
WHO ASSISTED US
IN THE PAST WITH A
FORMER COLLEAGUE
WHO DISPLAYED
SOMETHING SIMILAR.

HOWEVER, THAT PERSON
WAS ABSOLUTELY
UNAVAILABLE AT THE TIME
AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT
TO PUT YOU ON VACATION.



**...TO HOPEFULLY MINIMIZE
HARM BY LIMITING YOUR
EXPOSURE TO VELL.**

**IT SEEMED LIKE IT
WORKED OUT SINCE YOUR
CONDITION DIDN'T
IMMEDIATELY SPIKE TO
THE WORSE.**



**INSTEAD, IT
PROCESSED
GRADUALLY.**

**PARIS HAS BEEN ON
WATCH, KEEPING YOU
PROTECTED WITH HIS
POWER AS WE DREW
OUT THE DAYS.**



**SO WHY COULDN'T YOU
JUST TELL ME THIS IN**

HAVE TOLD ME THIS IN
THE BEGINNING?



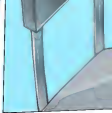
BECAUSE IT WOULD
HAVE PUT YOUR LIFE AT
RISK BY KNOWING. THE
ONLY REASON I CAN
DISCLOSE THIS TO YOU

NOW IS BECAUSE
YOU'RE PROTECTED TO
SOME DEGREE AT HQ.

—

...OKAY.
SO THEN, WHERE'S
THE OTHER ONE YOU
WERE ASKING FOR
HELP?





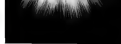
WELL...
ABOUT THAT...
I CALLED HELP FROM
THE HEAD OF
CATHARSIS.

BEING BUSY AS USUAL.
OUR BOSS ACTUALLY

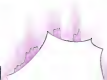
JUST RETURNED FROM
ATTENDING URGENT
BUSINESS. AND IS
CURRENTLY IN NO
CONDITION TO HELP.
WHICH IS WHY--

THE BOSS?
...YOU CALLED THE
BOSS?

WAIT.



WHAT THE HELL?
IS MY SITUATION REALLY
THAT DIRE? I FEEL A BIT
PANICKED NOW...





--WHICH IS WHY
I'M HERE!



I WAS
LITERALLY
ASKED BY
BIG BOSS IN
PERSON!



SO, JUST KNOW---

WHATEVER IT IS HARVEY
NEEDS HELP WITH WE'LL
SUCCEED BECAUSE I'M
GIVING MY 100%.

(FOR BOSS)